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**From:** macky tinsley <smackattyah@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:58 AM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Music for young ones helps develop their ever changing minds and shapes the future of our world.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Newman (mom of at 2nd grader)

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**From:** Larry&Mandy Ware <lmwarejoint@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:41 AM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Harvey Ware MBA, MS

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** ANANTHA RAO <anantharao@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:19 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anantha Pentakota

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**From:** Angela Freeman <aclubedevil@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:20 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; BoE Email; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Cc:** The Hubs  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Angela Freeman and Andy Freeman, HCPSS parents

301-639-1642 / 716-866-1880

**From:** [Aniela Schwab](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#)  
**Cc:** [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** Music is essential to HCPSS students!  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:16:16 AM  
**Importance:** High

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of two music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Aniela Schwab  
Howard County parent  
301-442-4830

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**From:** Anjussha Nayyar <anjussha\_nayyar@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:28 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Hello Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I looked at the proposed budget for next year and associated implications which triggered me to write this email to you all. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is devastating to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding cuts to multiple positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is shocking to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anjussha Nayyar

Parent of 9th and 6th grader

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**From:** Anna Arpasi <annaarpasi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:42 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** URGENT Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

My name is Anna Arpasi, I am a former Howard County Public School system graduate (RHHS class of 04) and I currently have two children at Dayton Oaks Elementary, one who is in her second year of orchestra. I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

I am alarmed at the proposal to cut the funding to the music programs, particularly 3rd grade orchestra. I myself started orchestra in 3rd grade at Clarksville Elementary and continued with it through 12th grade. Being from a large family, my family would not have had money to put me in private lessons. I am very worried that this is going to further divide the gaps between lower income and higher income families. These cuts will do nothing for those that can afford lessons for their children. However, it will be DEVASTATING to our lower income families who want to branch out and learn a string instrument.

Learning an instrument develops key parts of the brain giving those an overall advantage. Taking away that opportunity for all students to engage in learning an instrument in third grade has me absolutely dumbfounded.

Musical education plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anna Arpasi

6522 Prestwick Dr.  
Highland, MD 20777

**From:** [Brooks Perry](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** No HCPSS Funding For Music?  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:44:38 AM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As proud parents of 2 music-loving students, we are writing to express our sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

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Recent reports from US News state we are ranked 7th Richest County in the United States, yet we are seeing reduced buses and music programs? Something seems off.

image.png



I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brooks & Jen Perry  
5108 Britten Ln  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

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**From:** chinfenlin12@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 6:49 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS Funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chinfen

從我的iPhone傳送



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**From:** Doris Reinhardt <dorisreinhardt22@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 5:58 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** third grade strings

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To whom it may concern:

I was shocked and saddened to hear that the third grade string program in Howard County was in danger of being discontinued.

Howard County has one of the finest instrumental music programs in the state of Maryland. It is the envy of educators, as can be seen by the number of teachers who have elected to leave their former counties and move here to teach. The third grade string program is the foundation of the entire orchestral program for this county. It is one of the reasons that Howard County orchestras surpass the orchestras of other counties in both quality and in number of participating students.

I do understand that someone coming into the county wants to make himself look effective by trimming the budget, but I do not think that budgetary cuts are more important than the education our students receive. Please keep the third grade string program intact so that Howard County schools can remain the pride of Maryland.

Thank you.  
Doris Reinhardt

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**From:** Eduardo Muñoz <eduardo.munoz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:10 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county. The county just made a huge increase in property taxes. Perhaps that can be used to offset this budgetary challenge.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Eduardo Munoz Corona  
5391 Briar Oak Ct,  
Ellicott City MD 21043  
443-567-0883

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Eduardo Muñoz

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**From:** Erin McArdle <erin.l.mcardle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:53 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Budget- Do not Cut ES 3rd Grade Orchestra

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello Executive Ball, Acting Director Barnes, Board of Education, and Council Members -

I have been following the budget process, and from what I understand you are proposing to cut several programs, including the 3rd grade orchestra program and gifted and talented programs in the elementary schools, as well as increasing class sizes at all levels.

I currently have two 3rd grade students that are in the strings program, playing the cello and viola, respectively. The opportunity that orchestra provided them this year was not one that we could have otherwise provided at home, but the experience of learning and playing a strings instrument has been an amazing endeavor for them, so much so that their kindergarten age sibling told me tonight, "I can't wait until I'm in 3rd grade and can play in the orchestra". 3rd grade is absolutely the right time to start allowing children to immerse themselves in the joy and satisfaction that comes from creating their own music, and I want that opportunity to remain for my current kindergartener as well as all other Howard County students, current and future.

Opportunities through the GT program for my 3rd graders over the last 2 years, including CEUs as well as voluntary seminars, have created some of their most memorable and meaningful moments in their education. In our discussions at the end of each year, they always mention the units with the GT teachers as their favorites, and they have the most growth while in those environments. Please don't take that experience away from them and others.

Additionally, classes are already so large that they are on the verge of unmanageable. Making class sizes larger will only increase the burden on current teachers, which will hurt retention of quality teachers, as well as decrease the impact of learning for our children. Howard County used to be known for being a leader in the state, as well as the country, for a quality education for children. However, mismanagement of budget and administration over the past couple years has caused us to slip. Don't allow an increase in class size to cause that slip to turn into a slide.

Considering you are raising my property tax rating basis \$150k over the next 3 years, I don't see why we are looking at these increases in class sizes and putting important programs on the chopping block. The property taxes in this county are a primary source of funding for the school system, and if you are raising my property taxes over 20% then it is absolutely absurd that you would simultaneously be cutting programs for our students and increasing class sizes. I have worked in local government and am intimately familiar with how budget processes work, and the fact that these are the issues that you would showcase as your budget cuts should be embarrassing. Take a close look at the budget, and find a way to be fiscally responsible without hurting the students you should be working to provide for.

I encourage you to work toward finding other governmental efficiencies with the extra money you are collecting from my increased property taxes. It is your responsibility to Howard County as a whole to work on **increasing** opportunities for our students. We should certainly not be looking to decrease enrichment for our elementary schoolers by cutting music and GT back from their education and making large classes even larger.

Thank you,  
Erin McArdle  
13614 Voland Ct  
Dayton, MD 21036

**From:** [Fawcett Dunstan](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** Letter to Support Music Education in HCPSS  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:00:48 PM

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[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes:

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Fawcett Dunstan

443-454-7837

Fawcett

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**From:** Ginger Picker <picker.ginger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:39 AM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; cball@howardcountymd.gov  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding \*\*please read

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Here we are again, begging for absolutely necessary programs for OUR children. Please do not make any cuts to the music program for our elementary school kids. You may have seen this same letter many times, i really hope you have. I have added my personal experience to it, and overall it perfectly expresses how I feel.

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and

Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of 4 music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development. **This is especially true of our oldest child who found her best friends, her voice, her passion for playing music and being inspired by the greatest teachers that have impacted her life so tremendously in the music programs starting in 3rd grade and continuing and seeing her through 2 years of high school so far.**



Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers. **I honestly don't know where my daughter would be without the support and love from her music community. She was never drawn to any athletics, but found her home in music class, the orchestra, the band, and eventually to the marching unit at Glenelg High School. Please do not forget about these students, they need this space and many would feel lost without it being offered to them at an early age to find their place before the awkwardness of the teen years.**

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ginger Picker

Mother of 4 HCPSS students who LOVE music

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Erin Oh <scrappinerin07@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 4:42 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support *all programs* that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Hae Cha Oh

**From:** [I. David Chinedozi, MD](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** Music should not be cut off from HCPSS Budget  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 11:10:07 AM

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[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I trust this message finds you in good health and spirits. As a devoted parent of a student who is passionate about music, I feel compelled to voice my profound concerns about the potential cutbacks in programs and staff within the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

The recent news, as reported by the Baltimore Sun, detailing the significant reduction in positions within HCPSS, came as a jarring revelation. Our students and educators have already faced the challenges of growing class sizes in recent years. The prospect of further cuts is disheartening for our community. I earnestly call on our esteemed elected representatives to collaborate with HCPSS in navigating this challenging period and to address the persistent funding dilemmas that have beset our educational system annually.

In this communication, I also wish to highlight the crucial role of music education. It is instrumental in nurturing well-rounded, creative, and collaborative individuals. My child's engagement with the music programs in Howard County schools has immensely enriched their educational journey and personal growth.

The correlation between music education and academic prowess is well-documented. Students involved in music programs often demonstrate enhanced cognitive function, heightened focus, and superior problem-solving skills. These advantages transcend the boundaries of the music classroom, spurring academic success in other areas.

Moreover, our exemplary music programs foster a strong sense of unity within our school communities. Participating in musical groups instills in students the importance of cooperation, dedication, and resilience. These attributes are pivotal, shaping them not just for academic success but also preparing them for their future professional endeavors.

I recognize the budget constraints faced by HCPSS, yet I implore you to acknowledge the immense value music education brings to our students' lives. Investing in the overall betterment of HCPSS is tantamount to investing in the future custodians, creatives, and pioneers of our society.

I kindly urge you to come together, address the proposed cuts to music education, and uphold the support for programs that are integral and well-regarded within our county.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and eagerly await your positive action.

Best Wishes,  
Ifeyanyi David Chinedozi, MD, MBA(c)  
The Irene Picininni Investigator in Cardiac Surgery, Johns Hopkins

University  
General Surgery Resident, University of Maryland Medical Center  
(P): 410-387-9100  
(E): [ichinedozi@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:ichinedozi@som.umaryland.edu);  
[ichined2@jhmi.edu](mailto:ichined2@jhmi.edu); [chinedozi@gmail.com](mailto:chinedozi@gmail.com)  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ifeanyi-chinedozi-42648680>



"Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. And do everything with love" (1 Corinthians 16:13-14, NLT).

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**From:** Jennifer Brady <jjb00658@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:49 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; boe@hcpss.org; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding of music program

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I am writing you to request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county. My daughter was very much looking forward to the 3rd grade strings program at Phelps Luck Elementary next year and we were devastated to hear that the program may be cut. Music is a fundamental skill that has a significant relationship to other subjects such as mathematics and history. Please reconsider the proposal to cut music from our schools and allow our children a well-rounded holistic education. Howard county has always been a model school system, lets keep it that way!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Brady

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Jinisha Tanna <jinishatanna@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 7:55 PM  
**To:** bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jinisha Vora

[Jinihatanna@gmail.com](mailto:Jinihatanna@gmail.com)

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**From:** Krisphan Chumsri <kchumsri@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:44 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org  
**Cc:** CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** 3rd grade orchestra

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, Members of the Howard County Council, Members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the HCPSS. Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements. Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jitapong's Hotrabhavananda



**From:** [Joan Cooper](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Cc:** [Russell Rinker](#)  
**Subject:** Music program Howard County  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:49:10 PM

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[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of two music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

I want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched her academic experience but has also contributed to her overall personal development.

My daughter's orchestra teacher, Mr. Piccirelli, is by FAR one of the best teachers at her whole school. In an elementary school environment that is often chaotic and over-crowded, music provides the students something that makes them feel creative, important, and respected. Their behavior improves drastically and they carry themselves with poise when they are in orchestra. My daughter takes her orchestra class more seriously than any other class at Atholton, as do many of her peers. And my 2nd grade daughter, who has ADHD, has been eagerly waiting for her turn to join the orchestra next year in 3rd grade. Please do not take this away from her.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I urgently request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support this *essential* program in our county. Literally cut anything else. Music is what is getting these kids through every day.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Joan Cooper  
443-253-6165

7383 Kindler rd  
Columbia, MD 21046

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**From:** John Kim <jhk3882@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 5:11 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Kim

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**From:** Judy Leung <judycleung@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 1:37 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Judy Leung

[judycleung@gmail.com](mailto:judycleung@gmail.com)

---

**From:** Kathryn Painter <kathrynpainter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 3:27 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

Most concerning is this announcement after the extremely wasteful spending of monies on transportation that went out of state. That cannot supersede our spending on local teachers and our students.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements. Third grade is already late enough - my children loved being introduced to the orchestra as third graders and it helped their musical education blossom.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Painter

(240) 388-0592

[kathrynpainter@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynpainter@gmail.com)



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**From:** Kemuel Durham <kem.durham@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:27 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Proposed Music Budget Cuts

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, Members of the Howard County Council, Members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student enrolled in Dayton Oaks Elementary School, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the HCPSS. Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kemuel Halasz

216-543-0092

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**From:** Kevin Moores <kevin.a.moores@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 11:43 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin A. Moores  
Dad of a third grader at Ilchester Elementary

---

**From:** meharris7@verizon.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 1:07 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS Music Funding - Music Is Essential!

**Importance:** High

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I no longer have a student in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS); however, I remain grateful to its standard of excellence and can testify to the enormous value of the music program. It is worth my time to write and express my deep concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the HCPSS. When we chip away at our educational programs, we chip away at a core component of Howard County's economic development platform and quality of life. These are the things that helped our great county earn and sustain its AAA bond ratings for over two decades now. You have important work in front of you.

I was dismayed to read the report in the Baltimore Sun proposing drastic cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. It seems I can't go anywhere without hearing concern and heartache over the topic. I urge all elected officials to work together with HCPSS during this CRISIS and solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

Music education, in all its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. Music changed the course of my son's academic and personal development in more positive ways than I can count or express. Music is an essential language. Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements and personal lives.

Furthermore, the county's Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a true sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers and overall confidence and communication skills.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces but I urge you to pause and acknowledge the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives and communities at large. Consider closely the short and long-term benefits of this worthwhile investment in our county's future leaders, artists, and innovators.

I kindly request that you earnestly work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county. Thank you for your time and important consideration.

Sincerely,

Marion E. Harris  
301-580-4766  
meharris7@verizon.net

---

**From:** Meredith Kulikowski <mlk0407@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 2:54 PM  
**To:** bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Third Grade Strings is Essential

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am writing to urge the board to reconsider regarding third grade strings. Music education is vital for our children and our community. Orchestra provides a space for children to learn and connect with each other and build a foundation for life. Success in music leads to better grades in other areas and sets our children up for success. There is so much interest and participation in our community losing this program would be a huge loss felt for all.

Please keep strings in third grade.

Concerned Parent,  
Meredith Kulikowski

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**From:** Mindy Gorelik <mindygorelik02@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:30 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.



Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mindy Gorelik

[MindyGorelik02@gmail.com](mailto:MindyGorelik02@gmail.com)

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**From:** Monica Stowers <mstowers@franklinengineering.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:11 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding - Music

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

As a parent of two music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the HCPSS, especially in the music departments. Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My children's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development. On projects where my daughter is asked to describe herself, the number one thing she always includes is "viola-player."

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Monica Stowers  
Franklin Engineering Group, Inc.  
[mstowers@franklinengineering.com](mailto:mstowers@franklinengineering.com)  
Phone: 251.895.9200

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**From:** Mwelwa Kostrick <mwelwakostrick@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 2:50 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



**From:** [Pramod Mathai](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** HCPSS funding: the influence of music in mathematics  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:34:29 AM

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[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

Math is an integral part of my training as an aerospace engineer. Apart from providing sheer joy, music and poetry are very much a part of the collective human experience from which ideas in math have sprung since millenia. Here are a couple of examples - - a short description and a longer talk -- from Fields medallist Manjul Bhargav in which he gives examples of the link between rhythm and math and how it has affected his own mathematical research:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yuXx1PpaQI&t=8s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0LraLjkvgGo&t=1279s>

I know that you have busy lives but I urge you to find time to consider this influence of music on mathematics in your deliberations on the budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pramod Mathai

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**From:** Priyanka Marple <psengupta19@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:13 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Save music programs!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, Members of the Howard County Council, Members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,  
I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the HCPSS. Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements. Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Priyanka Marple

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**From:** ♥amullu♥ <rajyalakshmi.amullu@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 7:12 PM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and **essential** in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Raji G



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**From:** Ricardo Benn <ricardoabenn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:30 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS Music funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, Members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ricardo Benn

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**From:** sandeep daggupati <sandeep.daggupati@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 7:18 PM  
**To:** bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sandeep Daggupati  
2672348125

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**From:** Sara Nelson <saranelsonus@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 7:48 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development. My oldest is in her 4<sup>th</sup> year of music classes and it has made a tremendous impact on her. My next oldest is in her second year of music and she benefits so greatly from it. My third oldest CANNOT wait to start violin next year in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. This is so important to our students!!!

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sara Bricker, mom of 2 music students and 3 more that look forward to it.  
saranelsonus@hotmail.com  
443.528.7930

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**From:** Sarah Lipphardt <sarah.lipphardt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 5:43 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding - Music Education

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that **music education**, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of **music education** on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our **Gold Standard music programs** contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Lipphardt, PharmD, MS, BCACP

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**From:** Stacy Goodman <stacygoodman@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:02 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Subject: Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These



qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stacy Goodman  
9352 Breamore Ct  
Laurel, Maryland 20723

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Tessa Livingston <tessa.g.livingston@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:19 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barness@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tessa Livingston

[tessa.g.livingston@gmail.com](mailto:tessa.g.livingston@gmail.com)

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**From:** Wana Manitpisitkul <w\_manitpisitkul@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:28 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Wana Manitpisitkul  
3126 Nestling Pine Ct.  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

---

**From:** Abby Kroll <abbyzkroll@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 6:38 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Abigail and Adam Kroll  
(Children at Clemens Crossing ES)

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**From:** Amber Kleckner <amber.kleckner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 7:51 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** 3rd grade strings

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County educators,

I heard that HoCo is considering removing the 3rd grade strings program. As a parent of a third grader taking viola lessons, I urge you to continue the program. This is his first real exposure to organized music lessons and has really taken a liking to it. Living in an instant-gratification culture, we as a family are using music to demonstrate how a little bit of work each day can accumulate into substantial progress with no upper limit. His first-grade sister is already looking forward to learning the viola also (or maybe the violin, she hasn't decided yet). I have been so impressed by Dr. Nebesh--she is so supportive while demanding excellence. I don't know where my son will take his music practice, but I know that the discipline he is learning in the strings program will translate into important life skills.

Thank you for your time,  
Amber Kleckner, parent of Leif Kleckner, 3rd grader at Northfield ES



---

**From:** Beth Wood Denne <bethwooddenne@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 12:11 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding MUSIC

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Beth Denne

410-419-1844

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**From:** Bryan Hurley <hurleymail@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 12:29 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Proud parents of an art loving, chorus and orchestra participating 5th grader.  
Bryan and Suzanne Hurley  
Elko Drive, 21043  
Waterloo, Bonnie Branch, Howard

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**From:** Carmen Jessop <thatcarmengirl@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 2:46 PM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I, for one, have seen my third-grader thrive - musically, confidence-wise, time management-wise, and in increased discipline - because of her role as a violin-playing strings student at Ilchester Elementary School. Not only does she feel a boost as member of school's strings community, but she sees the relevance of school spirit and pride as a Howard County community member and future leader.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Carmen Jessop  
410-718-8717



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**From:** Charles Hoopes <charlesghoopes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 7:50 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am a proud parent of a music-loving student, and I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

Music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My daughter is a sophomore at Atholton and started playing the viola in third grade at Hammond Elementary. Her involvement in music has not only enriched her academic experience but has also contributed to her overall personal development. She now volunteers to play in an ensemble with other students, bringing music and joy to senior centers and crisis intervention centers in Howard County. I also played in the band in school (too many years ago to count!) and I remember well the sense of community and belonging it gave me.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles Hoopes  
410-868-2972  
[charlesghoopes@gmail.com](mailto:charlesghoopes@gmail.com)

---

**From:** CHRIS STINEBAUGH <laurienchris@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 8:58 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Appeal for HCPSS music funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

As a proud parent of two music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the HCPSS.

I want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development. These programs which both my children started in 3rd grade have been pivotal in their individual growth and they are both still in music today in high school. It's the part of their day that helps them survive the rough spots.

Not all students thrive in sports programs, which never seem to be on the chopping block. But those students who find their calling in the arts always seem to be fighting to keep what they love and what makes them happy.

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Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community. As a parent involved deeply in the music programs for years, I can tell you that a good chunk of the funding is done by the parents and community on top of the high taxes we pay to be part of this community. It keeps becoming harder and harder as the county cuts funding for these programs.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Chris Stinebaugh  
410-790-2408

---

**From:** Yi-Hsin Lin <yihsin620@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 8:57 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cindy Lin

---

**From:** Coral Douglas <c.reef331@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 10:59 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal For HCPSS Funding!!!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

As a teenager that has experienced the joy of orchestra since 3rd grade, I cannot stress how saddened the news of this budget cut has made me. Music has helped shape me, and has aided in my academic endeavors, and I'm not sure where I would be without it.

From experience with friends from different counties and states, I've realized the stark difference of the Howard County music program. As fortunate as we were to even start in elementary school, access to orchestra in 3rd grade has really helped bolster comprehension and skill level at a faster rate. I understand those who haven't played instruments may not realize how much 3rd grade really does for the music department. However, I'm writing to tell you that it does so much.

It could almost be compared to a language. The longer you wait to learn, the harder it becomes to really understand what is being learned. I would not be at the skill level I am now, if it weren't for 3rd grade. It isn't just about the skills either. I've enjoyed being a part of orchestra for the majority of my life, and to disappoint the students with pushing back the year they can finally access it, is sad, to say the least.

I can say for a fact that I do not understand the complexities of budgeting and the role you are expected to execute; however, I very much hope you will reconsider or find a way around this cut. Orchestra has been a very positive influence on my person, both academically and personally, and I hope music will continue to receive support within the county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Coral Douglas

---

**From:** Dominique Martinez <dmart87@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 10:15 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dominique Martinez, Esq.

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**From:** Emily Close <emily.betz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 6:47 AM  
**To:** bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal Re HCPSS Funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]

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**From:** Gina McIntyre <reginute@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 5:35 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Preserving Music Equity in the HCPSS

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting Superintendent Barnes,

My name is Gina McIntyre. You received an email from me last week laying out in detail the difficulty of learning an orchestra string instrument and the very important need for the 3rd grade string program. **Today, I would like to address the very important issue of preserving music equity in the Howard County Public School System.** Beginning string students will experience inequity in their string music development moving forward with the elimination of the 3rd grade string program. Please allow me first to briefly reiterate the extra challenges a beginning string musician faces and some background.

The level of difficulty does require additional instruction and guidance making the 3rd grade string program crucial to the beginning string student. Starting a string program in the 4th grade will ensure that string students will be behind in their development and skill level compared to their band counterparts and they will carry that skill deficit into their middle school and high school orchestra programs. The orchestra string instrument is very different from a band instrument and the difficulty is not just confined to the instrument. Learning how to use a bow and pull sound out of a string is a also a great challenge and requires a lot of instruction. Every piece that string students play contain a number of bowing techniques. It is an enormous amount to learn and commit to memory along with learning by ear to recognize the sound of a note and its position on 1 of 4 unfretted strings. Luckily, 3rd graders are like sponges and the 3rd grade is a perfect time to introduce a string instrument to them in school. I play the piano and have tried pulling sound out of my son's viola. It is not easy. Advanced string students make it look easy due to the early instruction they received in their initial 3rd grade string program. That 3rd grade year of instruction makes all of the difference in the world regarding a students' skill, technique, advancement, and success.

The general guidance has always been that band starts in 4th grade because of instrument size with regard to student size. Fourth graders are generally a bit larger and can better handle a band instrument that is only available in one size. Orchestra has always been offered in the 3rd grade because string instruments are available in many different sizes and are tailored to the student, allowing for younger students to begin playing. Arm length dictates the size of a string instrument a string musician uses. While instrument size is a big indicator and factor of when a program should begin, I believe wholeheartedly that when the 3rd grade string program was established in this county, it was because of the known difficulty and necessity for that extra year of instruction. In my previous email I also laid out how not having the 3rd grade string program would affect the entire Howard County orchestra program moving forward. If you delve into the successful string musicians participating in Maryland All State Junior and Senior Orchestras from all over the state, those students likely had a 3rd grade string program. We value and take great pride in the incredible orchestra achievements and successes of our string students here in Howard County and yet there is a proposal for the

elimination of a very critical and important developmental year of instruction for them. I cannot imagine our county eliminating anything that valuable from our athletes and sports programs, whom we also hold in high regard.

**A most important consideration to make in the proposal of the elimination of the 3rd grade string program is how it affects equity in our school music programs.** Howard County is a county with great diversity, not only in its people, but also in its socioeconomic levels. Students from affluent areas of the county can easily own an instrument and take private lessons. They have the financial resources to take private string lessons to make up for the deficit they would encounter from the elimination of the 3rd grade string program. However, we have many schools in many areas of the county where many or most students cannot afford to own or rent an instrument. Those students depend on the use of school provided instruments. Thankfully, we have instruments for them. **The students who do not have the financial resources would not be able to take private string lessons to make up for the loss of skills and instruction from not having a 3rd grade string program, and the jump start that program provides.** The result would be that some students would have the ability to become successful string musicians and have the opportunities to participate in the many Howard County extracurricular music/orchestra activities, as well as opportunities to perform in pit orchestras for our theatre programs and for high school graduations. Those students without the financial resources would quickly fall behind. **The ability for financially challenged students in our county to have a 3rd grade string program is incredibly important. It helps to level the playing field for those financially unable to take private strings lessons to make up for the deficit that would be caused by the elimination of the 3rd grade string program.** Not to offer that program to all beginning string students would mean that many students would always be lagging in their skills and development and quite possibly might give up all together from frustration. Music in any form help students build confidence, especially for those who struggle with communication in those early elementary school years. They learn to communicate through music. Music also gives them a sense of accomplishment and belonging at an early age, not to mention critical and analytical problem solving skills important to their math and science development in those early elementary school years. If students are struggling because an important string developmental instruction year is no longer available and private instruction is not a financially feasible option for many students, that is soul crushing and unfair to a young student who otherwise could have a bright musical future. As I stated in my previous email, music is the universal language all over the world. All of our students should have that opportunity to be part of that world. **Students who do not have financial resources available to them for private string lessons should NOT be disqualified from having the benefits of extra instruction and development they would receive in the 3rd grade program,** should they choose to play a string instrument. Eliminating the 3rd grade string program wouldn't affect only a few students. It would affect the entire 3rd grade population in our school district.

Some of our most beloved, admired, and accomplished string musicians came from very humble beginnings. All of our young string students in this county as a whole should have the opportunity to learn, develop, and succeed in the string music program. **The 3rd grade string program is crucial to all beginning string musicians and especially for those who would never have the resources to take private string lessons should the 3rd grade string program be eliminated. It is a necessity to our young string students. That program helps to further bring music equity to the entire music program in general to all students in the Howard County Public School System.** Please work together to preserve the 3rd grade string program to **ensure that all of our beginning string musicians have equitable opportunities.**

Thank you very much for your time today,  
Gina McIntyre

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**From:** Hong-Vinh Nguyen <hongvinhnguyen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 7:07 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this email finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Hong-Vinh Nguyen

[Hongvinhnguyen@gmail.com](mailto:Hongvinhnguyen@gmail.com)

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**From:** HUA WANG <huawangy@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 5:19 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Hua Wang

443-538-8473  
Huawangy@yahoo.com

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**From:** Jamie Fessler <jamie.m.fessler@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 12:26 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Jamie Fessler

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**From:** Jennifer Herrmann <jkherrmann@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 4:57 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS arts funding to support inclusion & diversity

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development. Learning music helped my one son overcome reading disabilities and my other son uses music as part of his mental health therapy so music is very important to our family!

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These are life skills and therefore essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year. I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces and make sure I donate to my children's music departments to add my support but I urge you to consider Howard County's mission to be inclusive and that not everyone can donate so the budget must include enough money to keep supporting the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support our arts programs that are essential to keeping our county one of the best.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Herrmann



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**From:** Jennifer Pelleg <jenpelleg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 11:27 AM  
**To:** Jennifer Pelleg  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a soon to be kindergartener and music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). My husband and I both grew up loving music and finding life long friends (and each other) through music programs in public school.

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Pelleg, PT, DPT

[jenpelleg@gmail.com](mailto:jenpelleg@gmail.com)

c: 610-952-8961

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**From:** Jody McKinley <Jody@mckinleys.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 19, 2024 2:48 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jody McKinley  
443-803-5062

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**From:** Kimberly Yang <yangkimb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 8:14 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS Music Funding - Music is an essential part of education

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

As a proud parent of a band student, I am worried about the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the Baltimore Sun report so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating. We urge all of our elected officials to work with HCPSS to help during this crisis and solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

Music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My son's involvement in music in Howard County schools has enriched their academic experience and contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities promote their academic journey and their future careers.

I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

Please work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kimberly Yang  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

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**From:** Kristen King <kristencking@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 2:31 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving 4th grader at Veterans Elementary and 6th grader at Ellicott Mills Middle, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire County. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development, increases a sense of connection to the school community, and builds confidence.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community. It is inexcusable that our County will continue to approve further development while neighborhoods like Old Ellicott City remain at risk downstream while simultaneously cutting infrastructure needed to support residents.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kristen King  
Ellicott City resident and parent

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**From:** Lisa Wilson <lisawilsonbergmann@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 1:01 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development and mental health.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Sincerely,

Lisa Wilson  
8854 Blue Sea  
Columbia MD 21046

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**From:** Maria Eleni Nikita <nmarialena@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 4:04 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Greetings, I am a parent of a music-loving student in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS), and I am concerned about the recent reports of potential program and staffing cuts. I want to urge our elected officials and HCPSS to work together to address these budgetary challenges and find a solution that does not compromise the quality of education that our students deserve. As you may know, music education plays a crucial role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their personal growth. Music programs also have a positive impact on academic performance, improving cognitive skills, concentration, and problem-solving abilities. In addition, our Gold Standard music programs help build a sense of community within our schools, teaching students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance, all of which are essential for future success. I understand that HCPSS faces budgetary challenges, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best  
Maria Eleni Nikita

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**From:** Pat Morris <patrickjmorris@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 7:02 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools not only enriches their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and

innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support *all programs* that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Meaghan and Patrick Morris  
Hammond Elementary Parents

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Meg Ballman <meg.ballman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 10:17 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS Funding - Music, Staffing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

**It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in HCPSS.** Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county, and it's a blow to our school system's reputation for excellence.

We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

**I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork.** My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

**I'd also like to share that St. John's Lane Elementary School's third grade orchestra was so large and so popular with the students last year, that they couldn't even fit on the stage.** Our excellent orchestra director had to break them up into two full performing orchestra groups, so that all the children could proudly display their new skills. We are very proud of the valuable work that our excellent instructors (Alexis Kalivretenos and Jacquelyn DeBella) did with these students last year and find it to be essential.

**We all know our kids need music education - as early and as often as possible. The research is there,** and I'm sure you've seen it all as educators and representatives yourselves. Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

**Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools.** The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but **I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.**

I was also disappointed to learn HCPSS has again proposed cutting the last remaining Environmental Educator in the school system. **I wrote last year to ask you to reconsider that, and I'm asking again now.**

It is critical that students have access to the high-quality environmental education that the Conservancy is uniquely equipped to provide through this partnership with HCPSS. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements, with programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader.

**I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Meg Ballman  
HCPSS Elementary School Parent

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**From:** Melissa Repoza <melissa\_repoza@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 12:27 PM  
**To:** bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Melissa Repoza

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

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**From:** Nicole (Bosch) Tsang <nrbosch@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 10:45 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to



support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.  
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nicole Tsang

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

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**From:** Rachel Butler <rachelbutler1012@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 10:16 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel Butler  
410-499-2273

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**From:** Rahul Mazumdar <rahul.rec@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 10:30 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,  
Rahul Mazumdar

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**From:** Rebecca Palmquist <rspalmquist@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 2:18 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving strings student and future 2024-2025 strings student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community. It all starts with Strings in 3rd grade. Please do not take away this opportunity for my daughter and all of the other 2nd grade HCPSS students to be a part of Strings as 3rd graders!

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rebecca Palmquist  
Mother of current and 2024 - 2025 Strings Students

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**From:** Ryan Salsman <salsmanryan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 7:19 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development. **My son's sense of belonging and love of school have blossomed as a result of his involvement in the third grade strings program.**

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to

support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ryan & Kalina Salsman  
Parents of an HCPSS third-grader at Ilchester Elementary  
443-844-2435



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**From:** Seth Marple <marpler12@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 1:29 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Save the Music Programs

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, Members of the Howard County Council, Members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,  
I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the HCPSS. Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

**I personally do not want to explain to my two younger elementary school children that the music program my older daughter is enjoying will not be available for them. It has had a huge impact on my eldest's development and would be a shame to not continue in the same capacity for my other two daughters.**

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements. Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Inc. Magazine's Best Workplaces 2023

**Seth Marple**  
CTO/CFO  
Software Engineer

[seth.marple@calibyrcorp.com](mailto:seth.marple@calibyrcorp.com)

LinkedIn [/in/seth-marple](#)

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**From:** Sheila Maldonado <sheila\_163@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 10:58 AM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sheila Maldonado

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** vani inti <vani.inti@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 2:17 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and **essential** in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Satyavani Inti

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**From:** sushmitha gadde <gaddesushmitha@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 3:59 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and **essential** in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sushmitha Gadde  
2152003897

---

**From:** Suzanne Alonzo <ms.alonzo20@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 11:12 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, as well as, a current teacher in the HCPSS, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Respectfully,

Suzanne Alonzo

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Suzanne Alonzo



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**From:** Ted Gifford <tedfordgif@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 9:31 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Appeal for HCPSS instrumental music funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I have just returned home after a wonderful in-school orchestra, band, and chorus concert at Ilchester Elementary. As a proud parent of four music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is concerning to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My children's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ted Gifford  
443-718-9479  
5212 Harvey Ln  
Ellicott City, MD, 21043

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**From:** Tiffany Beroid <tiffanyberoid@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 8:20 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Beroid  
202-257-8137

6415 Loring Drive  
Columbia, MD 21045

--

Have a great day,

***Tiffany Lyons Beroid***

240-615-0619 (Personal Cell)

202-257-8137 (Work Cell)

6415 Loring Drive

Columbia, MD 21045

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**From:** Tony F <tony.yre@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 6:25 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Cc:** Debbie F  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student.

I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

Our eldest daughter, Rosie, is a 10th grader at Atholton High School. She is thriving in the music program continuing to shine as the only female in their marching band's drumline. Any cuts to HCPSS's music departments are a potential cut to the next Rosie who aspires to showcase her talents in her marching band's drumline.

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable

contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tony & Debbie Fontana

Laurel, MD

Proud parents of Rosie (10th grader at Atholton HS) and Luci (7th grader at Hammond MS)

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**From:** Alyssa F. Cook <alyssakfcook@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 10:44 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Appeal for HCPSS funding for music education

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, Acting Superintendent Barnes, Members of the Howard County Council and Members of the Howard County Board of Education,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the potential staff and program cuts for music education in the Howard County Public School System.

Music education is not just an extracurricular activity. It has been shown that students who are engaged in music thrive academically as well. Our family's personal experience with third grade music (orchestra) has been overwhelmingly positive for our child.

I understand the HCPSS faces budget challenges but I would ask that you consider the valuable contribution of music programs and music education for our elementary school students. Please work to support these programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Alyssa Cook

---

**From:** Amy Kim <amykim@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 9:37 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Plea to save music programs in HCPSS

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, Howard County Council, Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I write to you as a concerned parent, alarmed by potential cuts in HCPSS music programs, recently highlighted by the Baltimore Sun. These cuts, alongside growing class sizes, threaten our county's educational quality and students' well-being.

Music education is pivotal in shaping our children's development, nurturing creativity, discipline, and collaboration. My child's experience in Howard County's exemplary music programs has significantly enriched her academic and personal growth.

Studies consistently affirm music education's role in enhancing cognitive skills, concentration, and problem-solving, impacting overall academic performance. Additionally, our renowned music programs foster community spirit, teaching valuable life lessons in teamwork and resilience.

While I recognize HCPSS's financial constraints, I urge you to safeguard music education. It's an investment in nurturing future leaders, creatives, and innovators. Let's collaboratively address these budget challenges, ensuring no retreat from our commitment to comprehensive, quality education.

I appeal for your collective efforts to prevent any reduction in music program funding, maintaining our county's standard of educational excellence.

Sincerely,

Amy Kim



**From:** [Liu Angela](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding  
**Date:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 1:46:24 PM

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[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and

continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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**From:** Ankit Vachhani <ankit.vachhani@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 8:52 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Cc:** Sapna Vachhani; cassandra\_miranda-murray@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ankit and Sapna Vachhani  
[ankit.vachhani@gmail.com](mailto:ankit.vachhani@gmail.com)



**From:** [Brynn Carnahan](#)  
**To:** [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** HCPSS Music Program  
**Date:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 12:29:39 PM

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[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Brynn Carnahan  
9803 Northbrook Ct,  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

**From:** [Buddhika Wijeyesinghe](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** MUSIC IS ESSENTIAL  
**Date:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 12:20:10 AM

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[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

We hope this letter finds you well. As proud parents of a music-loving student from Veterans Elementary School, we are writing to express our sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

We also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. Our children's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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We understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but we urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

We kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed

and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Buddhika and Hiran Tennakoon  
(Concerned Music parents from Veterans Elementary)



Virus-free [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)



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**From:** Carmen Hidalgo <carmen.hidalgo@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 1:46 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS Funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of three music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My children's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Carmen M. Hidalgo  
6303 Golden Hook  
Columbia, MD 21044  
443-980-0379

---

**From:** Catherine Bledsoe <cabledsoe4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 11:38 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding for music program

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes:

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Bledsoe  
(410-300-1212)

**From:** [cHar cHar](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding  
**Date:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 12:46:30 AM

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[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Charlotte Gustafson

---

**From:** Preethi & Chetan <preethichetan2712@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 12:46 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Chetan Pallai Venkata  
Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School Parent

**From:** [cici.greene](mailto:cici.greene)  
**To:** [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org); [Ball, Calvin](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding  
**Date:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 3:24:37 PM

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[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support *all programs* that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cici Greene



---

**From:** Claire Reinken <clairereinken@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 10:29 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; katiefry.hester@senate.state.md.us; chao.wu@house.state.md.us; natalie.ziegler@house.state.md.us  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes, Ms. Hester, Mr. Wu, and Ms, Ziegler:

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs as well as Gifted and Talented (GT) programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Claire Reinken  
Mother of a Howard County First Grader  
13299 Hunt Rdg Rd  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
[ClaireReinken@gmail.com](mailto:ClaireReinken@gmail.com)  
410-997-6880

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**From:** Deepika Mittal <deepym@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 5:10 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Deepika Mittal  
[deepym@gmail.com](mailto:deepym@gmail.com)

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**From:** Elin Bahen <elin\_williams@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 11:31 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** URGENT Appeal for HCPSS

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting Superintendent Barnes,

I hope that this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in Howard County. I am extremely upset to see all the cuts to positions in the HCPSS from the Baltimore Sun. Howard County students and educators have already seen a tremendous increase in class size since my inception 5 years ago in the Howard County School System. This news is devastating as this county is poised on being one of the best school systems in the country and will not continue to have that reputation with continued cuts.

I would also like to remind out elected officials that music education, in ALL forms, plays pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, and discipline, and teamwork at a young age. I feel that my student has had an overall personal development and enriched their academic experience from being involved in the stings program since the beginning of third grade.

Research over and over again has consistently highlights the positive impact music education has on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving skills. These behaviors has extended well beyond the music room into their entire life.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to the music departments and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elin Bahen  
443-416-5445

---

**From:** Eva Verghese <evasupriya@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 10:16 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Eva Verghese

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**From:** Fanny Yang <opass33@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 6:44 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Mr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of two music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My children's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Fannie Yang  
(667)942-0784

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)



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**From:** Haydee Herrera <lolalagrande123@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 5:38 PM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding - Math and Music education

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

In addition, MATHEMATICS education is a human right. High-quality math and music education are a matter of equity, cutting those programs will increase inequalities and affect kids from poorer families, immigrant families, and families of color.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dr. Haydee Herrera-Guzman

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**From:** James Rintamaki <james.rintamaki@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 10:57 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James Rintamaki  
678-524-0986

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**From:** Jamie Greene <jamiewgreene@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 3:20 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jamie Greene

---

**From:** Jamuna Ramesh <jamuna.r@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 12:48 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jamuna Devi Ramesh  
Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School Parent  
Proud Howard County Resident







**From:** [Jessica N Eng](#)  
**To:** [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org); [Ball, Calvin](#)  
**Subject:** DON'T CUT Funding for 3rd Grade Strings + Music Teachers  
**Date:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 11:53:58 AM  
**Attachments:** [20230225\\_104530.jpg](#)

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[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Mr. Ball, Members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting Superintendent Barnes,

I am a parent of a 1st grader and 3rd grader at Northfield Elementary School. My daughter is in 3rd grade and plays violin in the 3rd grade strings program led by Dr. Darka Nebesh, the school's beloved, dedicated, and supportive strings teacher.

The Acting Superintendent's budget proposal for the 2024-2025 school year eliminates the third-grade strings program across HCPSS. Thirteen elementary instrumental music teachers will be reassigned to other positions.

While strings will be available starting in 4th grade, I cannot stress enough the importance of starting early, as young as possible, in music education.

The brain's capacity for musical learning is highest at a young age, and decreases as children get older. The best time to learn music is before the age of 9. The earlier the better.

Third graders are more willing to take risks and try new things, while fourth graders become more self-conscious. This is Dr. Nebesh's experience in over three decades of teaching children.

My daughter has been playing the violin since she was 5 years old and would have stopped if not for Dr. Nebesh's encouragement and the availability of 3rd grade violin lessons, both individually and in ensemble (orchestra). For many students, schools are the only place where they get music lessons.

My son is only 6 years old and in 1st grade. Please do not deny him the opportunity to learn strings in 3rd grade. He hasn't started an instrument yet, but he deserves the opportunity to learn an instrument as early as possible.

Please do not cut funding for 3rd grade strings.

Reassigning Dr. Nebesh, who holds a doctorate in ethnomusicology, would be a poor use of resources and a waste of her talent and dedication. Please continue to support our music teachers.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jessica Eng  
Concerned Parent at Northfield Elementary School  
Encl: Photo of my daughter at violin practice.







**From:** [Jose Gonzalez](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding  
**Date:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 8:13:47 PM  
**Importance:** High

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[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and **essential** in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseh Gonzalez  
8059 Fatlock Court, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043  
(202) 294-4993

PS: Our Ilchester Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> grader always looks forward to his string classes. This is the only school activity where he practices daily without our encouragement. Already, he speaks of continuing his strings next year.

---

**From:** Kanchan Aneja <kanchankiki@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 8:55 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and

Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kanchan Aneja

Kanchankiki@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

---

**From:** KaReN Jung <karen\_0120@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 4:03 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Jung

Sent from my iPhone



---

**From:** kasia brodka <kasiabrodka@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 12:11 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS FUNDING

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

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lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kasia Brodka

---

**From:** Katherine Bornstein <katherinebornstein@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 4:41 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Mr. Ball, Members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes:

As a proud parent of two music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the HCPSS. Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My children's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Bornstein  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

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**From:** Kelly Blake <kellyblake919@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 2:19 PM  
**To:** ball@howardcountymd.gov; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I write to express my surprise and dismay about the budget crisis and impending cuts to HCPSS staff and programs. I urge you to continue fully funding the music education programs, in particular, at the 3rd grade level as well as transportation for orchestra participants.

Our daughter picked up the viola after hearing a chamber performance at Clemens Crossing from a group of Atholton High School students when she was in 3rd grade, and she hasn't stopped playing since. She is now a 9th grader at AHS and has continues to thrive in the orchestra and enjoy the benefits of our county's exemplary music program. We are very proud of our daughter and grateful for the excellent music education she has received in Howard County. Music is essential, not a luxury and it supports so many skills and abilities that our kids need to succeed and contribute meaningfully to society- teamwork, confidence, discipline, appreciation for harmony and beauty and so much more.

Please don't sacrifice one of the jewels of our education system in Howard County -- the music programs --and work together to solve any proposed cuts to them and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Sincerely,  
Kelly E. Blake

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**From:** Kelly Huang <tzufeng.huang@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 10:11 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Huang  
443-254-5261

**From:** [Kerri Bentkowski Li](#)  
**To:** [CouncilMail](#); [Ball, Calvin](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** DO NOT CUT MUSIC PROGRAM BUDGET - Music is Essential!  
**Date:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 9:03:02 AM

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[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

**My son, Aiden, is a third grader at Centennial Lane Elementary School. His orchestra concert is tonight!** We will be enjoying the months of hard work put in between him and his excellent Music Educator, Mr. William Rose, learning the fundamentals of music that he will carry with him for a lifetime *as the Board of Education decides whether or not to continue funding this essential program.*

I urge you - protect the third grade orchestra and the music program! It's essential to the culture of the school, the confidence and development of the children, and increases the overall value of the Howard County Public School system. This fundamental program is the beginning of the music experience and the third grade is the place to do it. **DO NOT CUT MUSIC PROGRAMS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.**

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements. Our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools.

By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

Thank you for your service to our community and **PROTECT THE MUSIC BUDGET AND THIRD GRADE ORCHESTRA.**

Sincerely,

Kerri Bentkowski & Raymond Li  
Parents of 3rd Grader at CLES & 6th Grader at BMMS  
9882 Century Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
[kerri.bentkowski@gmail.com](mailto:kerri.bentkowski@gmail.com)

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**From:** Lani Sinfield <lani.sinfield@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 1:06 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear members of the Howard County Council,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student at Tridelphia Ridge Elementary School, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lani Sinfield  
(410) 236-1638



**From:** [Laura Chaney](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org); [CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov)  
**Subject:** HCPSS Funding & proposed cuts  
**Date:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 3:06:01 PM

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[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Mr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I am a proud parent of two music-loving students in Worthington Elementary in Ellicott City, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is disheartening to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS), but we know you have the capability to keep this from being confirmed. Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years & will again next year. Our frustration is growing even more over this. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to RESOLVE the funding issues that seem to plague the system each & every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My youngest is currently IN and developing from the very program of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade strings that is one the proposed cuts. Her involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development this year and at such a critical age.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand that budgetary challenges happen, but in a county that sells it's blue ribbon public school system as a reason to live here, then turn & slash the very programs that help develop students to achieve and DELIVER that blue ribbon experience, I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Laura Chaney*

Ellicott City Resident & Voter

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**From:** Leping Yu <leping160@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 2:13 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Leping Yu

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Liz Petrella <petrella.liz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 5:56 PM  
**To:** bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year. I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development. Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements. Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers. I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community. I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Liz Petrella  
[Petrella.liz@gmail.com](mailto:Petrella.liz@gmail.com)  
(301)512-8186

**From:** [maxine\\_saylor@verizon.net](mailto:maxine_saylor@verizon.net)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** HCPSS Funding for Music - Please don't cut funding  
**Date:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 11:04:16 AM

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[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

First, thank you for your service to our community. I am writing to express my concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS), particularly to the music programs.

My two children had such a terrific experience in Howard County schools in the music departments. It was vital to their social and educational development. Strings at an early age is so beneficial for high performing students in elementary school. Keeps them from getting bored and gives them an outlet for their energy and creativity. Fosters an interest in music that lasts a lifetime. In my opinion, the music community is one of the best that a student can be involved in in high school.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider cutting the new Health 2 curriculum instead of the early music programs. The Health 2 curriculum has been forced on students who have moral and religious objections with what they are being forced to listen to and being tested on. Having no option to opt out of health 2 and making it a graduation requirement is a disgrace. To cut traditional music education and educators instead of this new health curriculum when money is tight is a horrible abuse of your power, a terrible way to push your political agendas and a really terrible decision. If you continue with your proposed budget, you are going to damage what is so great about Howard County...our educational system.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support *all programs* that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county. Health 2 is NOT one of them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Maxine Saylor



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**From:** Megan O'Hanlon <meganohanlon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 11:43 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent appeal for HCPSS funding-music

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Mr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you all well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. I can speak to this from personal experience. Music was everything to me in school and helped shape the person I am today.

Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Megan O'Hanlon Solis and Alejandro Solis Parent of 2 Northfield Elementary students

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Megan Mansour <mansour.megan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 11:13 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**From:** [Nora Flack](#)  
**To:** [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org); [Ball, Calvin](#)  
**Subject:** Budget FY25  
**Date:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 3:29:45 PM

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[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Acting-Superintendent Barnes, Members of the Howard County Board of Education, Dr. Ball, and Members of the Howard County Council,

I am a proud parent of two music-loving students. I currently have a 3rd and 5th grader in orchestra at Dayton Oaks Elementary School. I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS), specifically the third grade strings program.

I attended Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia and started playing the violin in 3rd grade over 35 years ago. I continued playing in the orchestra through 12th grade. It had a profound impact on me and I benefitted in so many ways from the fine arts music education that I received in public school. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to experience musical fine arts in public school. I am so happy that both my children had the same opportunity as I did. They both are currently thriving in their school orchestras. I, however, think about all the rising 3rd graders that will not get the opportunity or chance to learn a string instrument next year if the strings program is cut. I am advocating on behalf of over 2,500 future 3rd grade string students that will not receive the chance. HCPSS should be providing more opportunities, not taking them away.

Music education plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development. Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators

of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Nora Flack

--

Nora S. Flack, BA, RDH  
Cell (202) 207-6299

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**From:** Rachel Cowperthwaite <rcowpe1511@inst.hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 8:54 PM  
**To:** BoE Email; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Bill Barnes  
**Subject:** [SUSPECTED SPAM] Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard Country Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Rachel Cowperthwaite, and I'm a ninth grader at Atholton High School. I am writing to express my concern over budget and program cuts, specifically for the music department. I have participated in orchestra since the third grade, and I'd like to advocate for future third graders to also have this experience. Music has been an essential part of my education, teaching me creativity, discipline, and concentration. I truly believe that music education deserves funding and support, as it supports a student's whole education and personal development.

This year I was given an English assignment to write a 6-page speculative fiction story about an issue currently facing our society, and as a dedicated student involved in music, I chose fine arts in schools. I conducted my research on the impact of fine arts on education and how they are being threatened. I concluded from my research that an aesthetic education is needed for the complete education of the student, and that it also stimulates the brain, teaches responsibility, and aids students in achieving in other academics. [If you're interested in reading the story, this is the link.](#)

Again, I'd like to request that you work to find a way around cutting funding and support to a vital part of what makes our school system such an exceptional one.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Cowperthwaite



---

**From:** Rachelle Pierre-Mathieu <rpierremath@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 12:15 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; BoE Email; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachelle Pierre-Mathieu  
6172568345

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**From:** Rebekah Perillo <rebekahperillo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 7:11 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS Funding - Protect Music Programs

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To County Executive Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting Superintendent Barnes:

I hope this letter finds you well.

As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched his academic experience but has also contributed to his personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Rebekah Perillo

[rebekahperillo@gmail.com](mailto:rebekahperillo@gmail.com)

Northfield Elementary School Parent

**From:** [Sarah McConnell](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** Music is Essential  
**Date:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 7:33:07 PM

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[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I've listened to ELEMENTARY students testify at the Board of Education meeting tonight. Their passion for music is clear articulating the importance of music through tears and in front of a large crowd. Their courage shows how important music is to them as is my own students. I have two boys who started orchestra in third grade and it has increased their confidence, social skills and helped create their love of music. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My children's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please make the right decisions - keep the music program as it is and DO NOT cram more kids in the classroom!

Sincerely,

Sarah McConnell



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**From:** Sonia Arthungal <sonia.art@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 1:02 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of **4 Howard County music-loving students**, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My children's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development. **I currently have 3 children playing instruments in Howard County schools, ranging from 7th grade to 12th grade. My youngest child is in 2nd grade this year and looking forward to playing an instrument in 3rd grade next year, as long as the 3rd grade music program is not cut.**

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sonia Arthungal  
240-447-2225

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**From:** Sophia Jang <sjang618@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 2:45 PM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** About third-grade strings program

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Mr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Boards of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

As a mom of two boys who are in orchestral programs in Howard county, I am very concerned that there is a possibility that a third-grade strings program will be eliminated for a budget cut.

Music has been such a wonderful instrument to kids in school to develop discipline, creativity, and cognitive skills throughout the process, and I do see the clear benefits from watching my own kids.

Third graders are at an important age where they can develop interests in instruments and build foundations for more advanced orchestral programs, and if this is cut, I feel that it will take away opportunities from that and I am afraid starting as a fourth grader is too late, especially it is important to start an instrument at a younger age as possible. I even think that students younger than third-grader should be able to join.

This should not be taken away just because elementary instrumental music is not mandated. I hope that you will be able to see the importance of this and my opinion will be reflected in making such important decisions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sophia Jang

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**From:** Sophia Lam <sophia.lam.reed@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 9:31 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sophia Lam

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**From:** Stacey Yellen <stago77@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 7:32 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Stacey Lawson

202-903-3149



Smile!  
Stacey

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**From:** Terra Bufkin <tmbufkin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 9:53 AM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS Funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Mr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of two music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Terra Bufkin

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**From:** Yiming <yiming20001@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 3:18 PM  
**To:** bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Yiming Zhu  
4109080651